

Message Text

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52/11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 USIE-00 PM-09 SS-14 RSC-01 L-03 H-02 PA-03

PRS-01 INR-09 DPW-01 NSAE-00 RSR-01 AID-20 IO-12 /136 W
----- 032203

O 271137 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3271

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE

CIA

DOD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2263

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO INTERNAL TALKS: TWENTY- FOURTH SESSION - NO PROGRESS
REPORTED

REF: VIENTIANE 2240 (NOTAL)

1. REGULAR TUESDAY TALKS WERE HELD TODAY, WITH RLG DEL HEADED BY
NGON SANANIKONE AND LPF DEL HEADED BY TIAO SOUK VONGSAK. JUDGING
FROM PRESS CONFERENCES AFTERWARDS, NO PROGRESS OCCURRED DURING
SESSION.

2. LPF DEL SPOKESMAN SOTH PHETRASY SAID MEETING HAD REVIEWED
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REPORTS OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL COMMISSIONS AND AGREED THAT THESE BODIES SHOULD SPEED UP TALKS BY MEETING MORE FREQUENTLY. SOTH SAID LPF REQUESTED BOTH GROUPS MEET THURSDAY, MARCH 29, AT 0930 HOURS. HE ALSO SAID THAT DURING TODAY'S SESSION, TIAO SOUK VONGSAK HAD EXPRESSED REGRET THAT RLG " DOES NOT UNDERSTAND SPIRIT OF VIENTIANE 1973 AGREEMENT AND IS PUSHING LPF TO ACCEPT ITS DRAFT PROTOCOLS AS THOUGH LPF WERE INFERIOR PARTY." SOTH THEN ACCUSED U. S. OF CONDUCTING LARGE- SCALE AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF PLAIN OF JARS AREA AND CALLED FOR " BOMBING HALT."

3. RLG DEL SPOKESMAN NOUPHAT TOLDVE SUBSTANTIALLY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ITS PERSONNEL.

2. ACCORDING TO HUNGARIAN ICCS OFFICER WHO SEES DRV/ PRG FPJMC DELEGATES DAILY, PRG DELEGATION HAS NOW RELENTED ON ITS THREAT TO LEAVE GVN TERRITORY IF IT HAD TO STAY AT CAMP DAVIS (SAIGON 4638 AND 4523). HUNGARIAN COLONEL KOSZEGVARI, SECOND RANKING HUNGARIAN MILITARY DELEGATE, SAYS THAT AS A RESULT OF GVN ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD SEEK ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES FOR PRG DELEGATION, LATTER HAS NOW AGREED TO STAY ON AT CAMP DAVIS UNTIL MAY 1, PRESUMABLY AT SOME POINT TO TRANSFER INTO THE PRG ELEMENT OF THE TPJMC.

PART IV: THIRD SESSION OF GVN/ PRG BILATERALS MAKES NO PROGRESS

ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON , AT THIRD SESSION OF GVN/ PRG BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN PARIS MARCH 26 THE TWO SIDES FAILED TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON AN AGENDA. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 30. MEANWHILE FOREIGN MINISTER LAM TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE DOUBTED THESE BILATERAL TALKS WOULD LAST AS LONG AS THE PARIS PACE TALKS (4 YEARS) FOR THE OTHER SIDE IS AWARE IT CANNOT WIN MILITARILY AND MUST FIND A WAY TO RECONCILIATION. HE ADDED THAT ANY AGREEMENT ON AN ELECTION MUST RESPECT THE GVN CONSTITUTION.

PART V: GVN CHARGES 8,700 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS PM MARCH 27, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE A TOTAL OF 8,700 TIMES SINCE JAN 28. DURING THAT PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 15,091 COMMUNISTS SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN KILLED AND 209 CAPTURED. THE GVN ACKNOWLEDGES 3,086 KILLED, 15,212 WOUNDED, AND 817 MISSING. A TOTAL OF 448 CIVILIANS HAVE ALSO LOST THEIR LIVES, WHILE 1,322

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HAVE BEEN WOUNDED AND 858 ABDUCTED BY THE COMMUNISTS.

PART VI: MR-1

1. INCIDENTS IN MR I FELL TO 18, OF WHICH 14 WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF). 1 ST ARVN DIVISION RECEIVED 7 ABFS, MOSTLY IN THE 3 RD REGIMENT AREA. THE AIRBORNE AND MARINE AOS WERE AGAIN WITHOUT ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS. QUANG NAM AND QUANG TIN SAW REDUCED ACTIVITY. IN QUANG NGAI THERE WERE GROUND ATTACKS AND ABF' S IN THE MO DUC SUB- SECTOR. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 13 KIA, ENEMY 39 KIA. THERE WERE NO NAVAL GUNFIRE OR TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT MISSIONS REPORTED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,305 ROUNDS; 621 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 684 SOUTH.

2. IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG TIN, ICCS SUB- REGION TEAMS CONTINUE TO LIVE IN BOREDOM, RELIEVED ONLY BY OCCASIONAL EXCURSIONS AND ENTERTAINMENT. THE SECOND INVESTIGATION BY THE HOI AN TEAM, STARTED LAST WEEK, HAS BEEN REFERRED TO REGION II HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT A FIELD INVESTIGATION.

3. VILLAGE ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED IN ABOUT TWO- THIRDS OF THE VILLAGES OF QUANG TIN, FROM MAY 6 INTO JUNE. UNDER NEW ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS THAT THE VILLAGE CHIEF BE UNDER 59 YSKRS OF AGE AND SERVE NOT MORE THAN SIX YEARS, THERE WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE TURNOVER OF INCUMBENTS ENTIRELY APART FROM ANY INITIAL ELECTORAL SUCCESSES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. IN QUANG NGAI, A SCHEDULE OF VILLAGEELECTIONS, PROBABLY BEGINNING IN MAY, IS NOW IN PREPARATION.

PART VII: MR-2

1. AFTER UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF CASUALTIES REPORTED YESTERDAY, MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 2 LEVELED OFF SLIGHTLY IN LAST 24 HOURS. VC LOSSES THIS PERIOD RESULTED FROM RVNAF REACTION TO VC- INITIATED GROUND ATTACKS; FRIENDLY LOSSES STEMMED PRIMARILY FROM ABF' S.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED HIGH IN BINH DINH, PARTICULARLY IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS, BUT PLEIKU SAW EVEN MORE ACTION, MOST OF IT CENTERED IN LE THANH DISTRICT WHERE 14 FRIENDLY TROOPS WERE REPORTED WIA IN SCATTERED ABF AND MINE INCIDENTS. IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE VC ATTACKED AN RF POSITION IN THIEN GIAO DISTRICT.
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HELICOPTER SUPPORT WAS SUMMONED; TEN VC REPORTED KIA.
AN RF COMPANY IN SOUTHERN KONTUM HAS BEEN BESIEGED. AT

PRESENT, 11 MEMBERS HAVE DRIFTED BACK TO GVN POSITIONS, STILL
IN POSSESSION OF THEIR
E E E E E E E

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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